

mm long, thick. Bracts and bracteoles 1.0-1.5 x 1.0 mm, ovate, acute with ciliate margins. Sepals 5, imbricate, 1.0-1.5 x 1.25 mm, broadly ovate, obtuse, tomentose with ciliate margins, persistent in fruits. Petals 5, 5.0-6.0 x 1.0-2.0 mm, spatulate, thick, obtuse. Stamens 5, exserted; anthers 2-lobed, 0.75-1.0 x 0.75-1.0 mm, yellowish, dorsifixed, opening longitudinally; filaments 4.0- 5.0 mm long, stout, subulate, white. Ovary small, fixed at 0.75 mm across disc, 2 celled; style c. 2 mm long, stout; stigma

Flowers & Fruits: April - June.

Habitat: On shady slopes.

It can be readily distinguished from *S. arborescens* by small 0.8-1.5 cm long petioles; obovate oblong, coriaceous leaves with 10-20 lateral nerves, without arching along margins; panicles larger, 5.0-8.0 cm, loose; bracts small, 1.0-1.5 mm long; sepals 1.0-1.5 mm long with ciliate margins; drupes greenish black, smaller 3.0-6.0 mm diam., pyriform. With the discovery of these two new species, the total number of taxa described under *Skimmia* rises to twenty; of these, *S. laureola* is distributed over the whole Himalayan range and *S. arborescens*, *S. melanocarpa*, *S. arunachalensis* and *S. kamengensis* are reported from the Central and Eastern Himalayan regions of the Indian sub-continent. To facilitate the identification of the above five species occurring in India, the following key is provided:

KEY FOR IDENTIFICATION OF FIVE SPECIES OF *Skimmia*

- 1a. Low trees; leaves caudate, acuminate, thinly coriaceous:
 - 2a. Anthers larger, 2 mm long; fruits 9.0-13.0mm diam., subglobose, rugose *S. arunachalensis*
 - 2b. Anthers smaller, 0.5 mm long; fruits less than 9.0 mm diam., globose, smooth.....*S. arborescens*
- 1b. Shrubs; leaves acute to obtuse, thickly coriaceous:
 - 3a. Flowers in lax panicles; fruits pyriform.....*S. kamengensis*
 - 3b. Flowers in dense panicles; fruits ovoid to globose:
 - 4a. Leaves elliptic, smaller; drupes black.....*S. melanocarpa*
 - 4b. Leaves oblong elliptic, larger; drupes dark red.....*S. laureola*

single, capitate. Drupes pyriform, 3.0-6.0 mm across. Seed 1, cartilagenous.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for facilities and Dr. N.C Majumdar, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, for help in the Latin diagnosis.

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ERIA LOHITENSIS — A NEW SPECIES OF ORCHID FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA¹

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(With a text-figure)

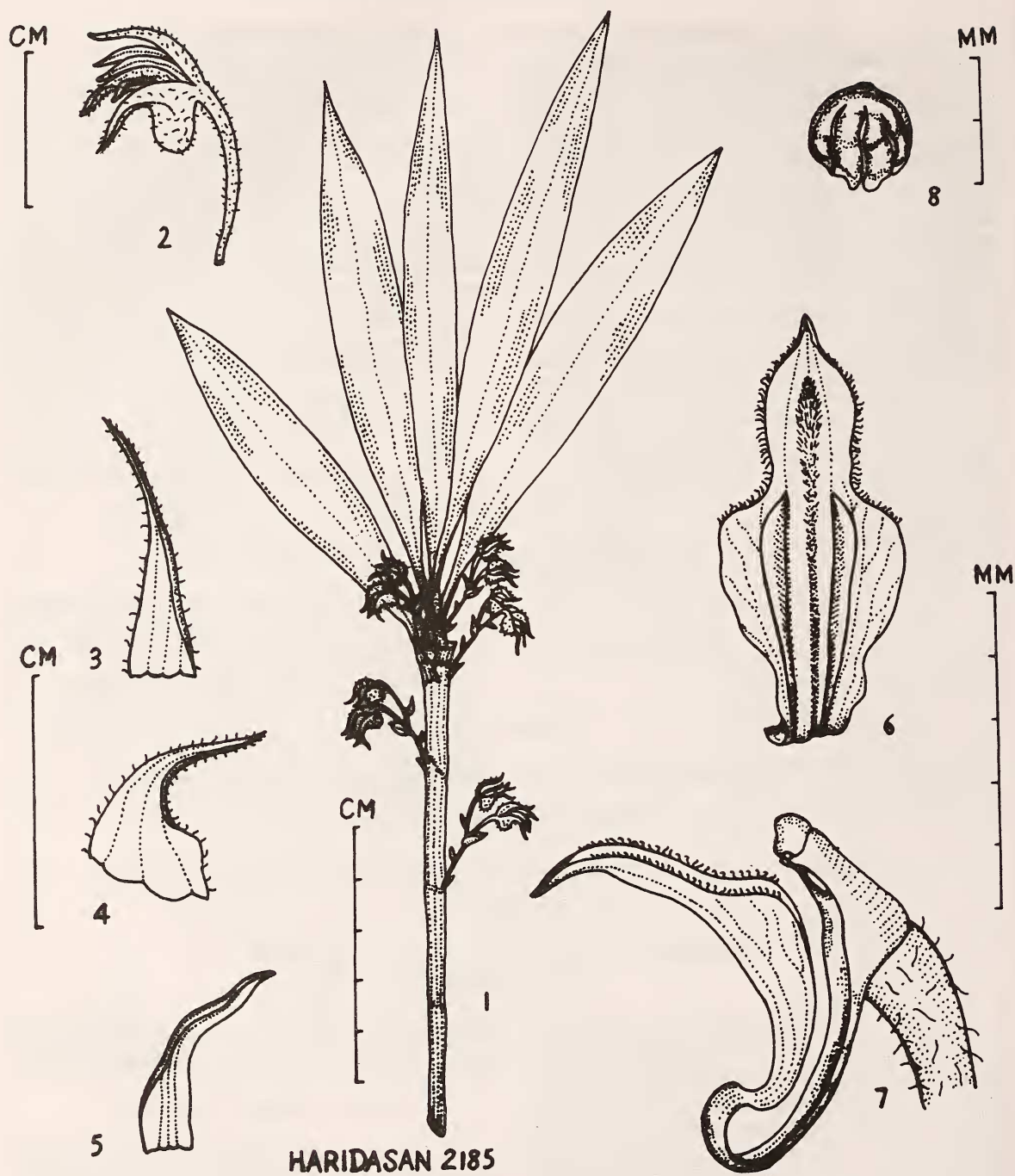
During a collection trip to Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh, one of us (Haridasan) collected an orchid belonging to the genus *Eria* Lindl. A critical study based on the regional herbarium specimens of allied species and also literature on Asiatic species of *Eria* has proved it to be quite distinct from species so far known. Hence it is described here as a new species.

The new species belongs to the section *Cylindrolobus* Bl. of the genus *Eria* and can at once

be distinguished from the rest of the species of the section by the presence of lip with ciliate midlobe.

Eria lohitisensis sp. nov. (Fig.1)

Affinis *E. cristata* Rolfe, a qua imprimis differt sepalis acuminatis trinervis, labelli lobis medio oblongo ciliato. Holotypus: lectus ad locum Mailang - Mithumna, alt. 1600 m, die 11-5-1985, Haridasan 2185 (Arunachal Forest Herbarium).

Fig. 1. *Eria lohüensis* sp. nov.

1. Plant; 2. Flower; 3. Dorsal sepal; 4. Lateral sepal; 5. Petal; 6. Lip; 7. Ovary, column, column-foot and lip; 8. Anther cap.

Epiphyte. Stems about 20 cm long and 8 mm thick, clavate. Leaves upto 6, terminal, about 15 x 2 cm, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, shortly petioled. Inflorescences many, arising laterally from the stem at various intervals from middle on the stem to sub-terminus. Inflorescence 2-flowered, about 3.5 cm long. Rachis white pubescent, with two sterile bracts at short intervals. Floral bract about 8 x 4 mm, shorter than the pedicellate ovary, acute. Flowers about 2 cm long, white. Dorsal sepal about 10 x 2 mm, lanceolate, acuminate, white pubescent outside, 3-nerved. Lateral sepals about 10 x 5 mm, obliquely ovate-triangular, acuminate, forming a mentum with the foot of column, white pubescent outside, 3 nerved. Petals about 8.0 x 1.5 mm, oblong — lanceolate, acute to acuminate, 3-nerved. Lip about 7 mm long 3 mm broad across the lateral lobes, shorter than the sepals and petals, 3-lobed; lateral lobes 4 mm long, rounded, with 2 prominent parallel vertical lamellae inbetween on the disc; midlobe 3 mm long, oblong, acute, ciliate at margins, with a median vertical hairy ridge on the disc. Column

about 2 mm long, with a long foot which is in curved at apex. Anther cap semiglobular, 4-celled. Ovary with pedicel about 1 cm long, white pubescent.

Flowering: May.

Occurrence: Arunachal Pradesh, Lohit district, Mailang - Mithumna (1600 m).

Distribution: Endemic.

Eria lohitensis is allied to *E. cristata* Rolfe which is reported from Burma and Thailand but can be easily distinguished from the latter by the presence of acuminate, 3- nerved sepals instead of acute, 5-nerved sepals and oblong ciliate midlobe of lip instead of broadly ovate midlobe of lip which is entire at margin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks are due to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Itanagar and the Conservator of Forests, Banderdewa, Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh for facilities and encouragement.

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